

Anthony Valletta, F.R.E.S. (of 257 Msida Street, B'Kara, Malta), did not exclude the possibility, but suggested that *P. machaon* might be using Rue as its summer foodplant, as occurs in Malta (*Ruta chalepensis*, and its var. *bracteosa*). The plant's habitat there is on uncultivated ground of upper globigerina limestone, on poor soil, but the roots go down into fissures; even so, they tend to dry up in summer, and shoot again after the first rains in late September and early October. Rue is also cultivated in gardens as a medicinal plant, where it is kept watered during the summer and would have foliage on which *P. machaon* could breed. In captivity, it breeds readily on Rue in Malta.

Roger White (of Plapouta 14, Ormidhia, Larnaca, Cyprus) did, however, confirm my surmise. *P. machaon* uses lemon trees in his garden as a foodplant. In November 1985, he was breeding out a number of larvae collected on citrus trees in Ormidhia gardens, several having hatched between 8th and 15th November. The butterfly shows a preference for lemon and citron, and is less attracted to oranges, grapefruit and mandarin, probably because of the stronger smelling foliage of the former. This seems to be significant information which needs to be put on record. R. C. DENING, 20 Vincent Road, Selsey, West Sussex.

BREEDING THE CLOUDED YELLOW BUTTERFLY IN 1986 — despite the poor summer I was pleased to see 3 male *Colias croceus* in a meadow near Norleywood, Hampshire, on 24th August. A further 3 males and 1 female, were seen at Corfe, Dorset, on 5th September. A visit to Corfe on 21st September produced a further 3 males, one very fresh, and a severely crippled var *helice* resting on a flower head. The condition of the wings was such as to preclude flight, and in all probability she was locally bred — no doubt the progeny of a much earlier immigration.

Although the *helice* proved infertile, another female taken on 5th September lived in captivity for 46 days, laying many eggs. Larvae were fed initially on birds-foot trefoil, later lucerne, and finally on white and red clover. Butterflies emerged between 7th November and 27th January. The 212 imagines comprised 109 males, 48 type females and 55 *helice*. The type/*helice* ratio being much as expected from a sex-linked dominant gene. A. S. HARMER. Covert-side, Sway Road, Lymington, Hants.

BUTTERFLIES ON MANURE AND FARM EFFLUENT. The note on mud-puddling behaviour of the green-veined white (*Ent. Rec.* 99: 27) prompts me to mention a comparable experience. On 25th July 1982, while walking along a bridleway in the bottom of a dry valley on the Yorkshire Wolds near Sledmere, I came across green-veined white butterflies on what appeared to be slightly weathered horse